



WWU DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2021

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REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CHAIR

I hope you are all healthy and doing well! It's been a busy year in the Department of Psychology. Classes during winter, spring, and summer quarters were conducted almost entirely remotely as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty and students worked hard to adapt to the new modality, modifying course content, learning new technology, and exploring new ways to engage in the course material.

This fall we saw a return to campus for many, with approximately 80% of students taking one or more courses in person on campus. I have to say that it felt great to see students in the classroom again. The students in the classes I taught this quarter were energized and engaged and the discussions were rich and insightful. It was great to be reminded of how fun our job can be!

With the return to campus, I've been impressed with how safety-conscious our students, staff, and faculty have been. Between the widespread use of vaccinations, masking, and other precautions, Western's COVID infection rates have been very low. Having been in communication with colleagues at other institutions with less safety-conscious policies (and with much worse outcomes), I feel very fortunate to be part of the Western community.

While the ongoing global pandemic required many research programs to pause or adapt, the faculty and students of this department continued their high level of scholarly productivity. In some cases, the faculty and students modified their research plans to de-emphasize in-person data collection and make use of remote samples. In other cases, researchers have applied their areas of expertise to study the psychological effects of the pandemic itself. Over the past year, faculty in the Department of Psychology published 42 original research articles in academic journals (with 38 student co-authors) and gave 45 presentations at professional conferences (with 76 student co-presenters).

The innovations that emerged from the pandemic have included a number of positive changes, such as a greater reliance on "flipped" classrooms (where students watch pre-recorded lectures outside of class and use their class time to engage in deeper discussion and application of the material) and more accessible professional conferences, where scholars across the world can attend research talks remotely without expensive travel. While there have certainly been negative impacts, I suspect that this past year will also have a lasting positive impact on the way we teach, learn, and conduct research.

Throughout it all, the Department of Psychology has continued to grow, with a record 449 undergraduate majors across our three programs in spring quarter 2021 and awarding a record 283 undergraduate and graduate degrees.

I would like to thank all of you who have so generously donated to the Department of Psychology. Your contributions have helped us support students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs by providing funding for student scholarships, conference registration fees, travel to conferences, computer software to help support instruction, and computer lab maintenance. We appreciate your support in the past and look forward to your continued support in the future.

I hope you will consider visiting the department during some of the events (many of them virtual) we have this year. Your invitation to PsychFest, our annual celebration of student research, stands. If you would like to join us, PsychFest will be held on Friday, June 3, 2022. We will also be hosting several research talks throughout the year, including the Center for Cross Cultural Research speaker series. Many of these events are more convenient to attend than ever, given they are held remotely via Zoom. Please contact psychology@wwu.edu with questions or follow us at @WWUPsychology on Instagram and Facebook to be kept up to date.



Jim Graham, PhD, Professor and Chair

TO THE CLASS OF 2021

TEXT BY POETRY TEACHER RAFAEL SACHS*

What I've lived with you in 2021 was a strange chapter of a great story; a chapter with much sadness, full of masks, fear, uncertainty, and pain... but between zoom classes and posts on Canvas, there was also life. We opened windows of life—strange windows, it is a fact, but alive, full of stories which sprouted like shoots. There were those who sent messages concerned with their grades, new concepts, tasks, and due dates; there were those who did not care, those who disappeared and returned, those who seemed to enjoy, those who seemed to sleep... anyway, students living life. Many times I found you beyond our class, in inspiring stories and conversations happening in between course assignments about affections and challenges, unexpected real life novels, and strange separations... In short, stories of pain and fresh starts. If I remember the stories of what we've lived together, it is because we are intertwined and at the same time the memories make me look ahead. On my very own reading of Freud, I think that to dream the future, we need to touch the past and let it move us. Thus, to finish this message, I want to talk about dreams.

I dream the future of each one of you. My dreams are many and colorful. I dream that, one day, I will see you here and there, in many different paths, choices, and careers. I dream of you succeeding, of course, but I want you to be keenly human—aware of yourself and of others, brave enough to be just and kind. The world that is up to you is not simple, the time to be compassionate to others is urgent. If I nonetheless dream, in such a strange time, it is because I believe that a flower can sprout on the street, breaking through the asphalt. A rock in the middle of the road may be hard, but life is really in the waters, which have always found their course around barriers. I dream as I believe that you will find a way to cross past the hardships of the world and of this time. If I can leave one last lesson, which, by the way, does not need to be posted, it is that on your graduation year and always, you keep dreaming. As long as you can dream, I know I will be alive. As long as you dream, we, your professors, will continue dreaming and echoing bits of each one of you. Congratulations to all!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

VICTORIA REINKE

WHAT-COMM 911 POLICE DISPATCHER

GETTING STARTED

Victoria knew from the time she began her undergraduate degree at Western in 2012 that she wanted to pursue a degree in Psychology. Initially unsure about her area of interest, Victoria explored her options through work both in the classroom and in the lab. Under the direction of Dr. Lehman, Victoria focused on the impact of mindfulness in stress and coping. This allowed Victoria to see the mind-body connection in a new and exciting way while also opening her eyes to the applications of psychological practices in everyday life. Simultaneously, Victoria worked as a teaching assistant in Psychology and Gender classes for Dr. Ericksen; this experience allowed her to see the diversity and nuance in the experiences of those around her



Before completing her B.S. in 2016, Victoria worked with Dr. Devenport on several court cases that allowed her to explore the area of Psychology and Law. The opportunity to explore the legal system from the inside and, see the impact of human perception at work sparked an interest in Victoria that followed her even after graduation.

STUDENT TO EMPLOYEE

After graduation, Victoria asked the age-old question "Now what?" The answer brought her back to Western, and in July of 2017, Victoria began her career as a police dispatcher for the Western Washington University Police Department (WWUPD). Dispatching is a crash course in problem solving and communication; everyday Victoria found her education making an appearance in her work whether it was working amongst her team or interacting with the community she served. Starting in 2019, Victoria was aggressively recruited by What-Comm 911, the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for Whatcom County.

Two years later she finally made the move to What-Comm 911, answering all 911 calls and dispatching for nine law enforcement agencies. Victoria found that with a larger population came an even better opportunity to use and expand her education. Answering calls for service and helping people through their hardest moments requires compassion and the ability to switch gears quickly. Victoria has completed several trainings that provide specific skills relating to her position that focus heavily on communication and de-escalation for emergency calls, working with such a large diverse population within the community.

USING THE SKILLS

While Police Dispatching was not something Victoria considered when she began her academic career, her degree turned out to be a much bigger asset than she could have imagined. Every day as a dispatcher, Victoria is faced with fast-paced and dynamic situations that require a high degree of attention, critical thinking, and staying present with the caller. Police dispatching is a team sport in every sense, requiring careful listening skills and the ability to convey information clearly and efficiently to the appropriate agencies.

The transition to What-Comm has provided Victoria the opportunity to apply both social and cognitive principles of psychology during her interactions with diverse groups in emergency situations. Through her training and experience, Victoria has learned how to implement stress management techniques into her self-care routine and the importance of being informed about the impact of secondary trauma processing for telecommunicators.

MARGARET MANNING SHULL

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR



Returning to graduate school at age 50 seemed unlikely when Margaret first began to explore various graduate programs in mental health counseling; however, by the time she had completed the undergraduate prerequisites, Margaret's Western professors encouraged her to apply for the Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and provided the resources and guidance that enabled her to craft a compelling application.

Prior to applying to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, Dr. Christina Byrne supervised Margaret's independent study exploring sex differences in post-traumatic stress and resilience.

During the graduate program, Margaret had the opportunity to participate in research alongside other undergraduate and graduate psychology students in Dr. Anna Ciao's and Dr. Aaron Smith's research laboratories. Throughout the program, the psychology and counseling program faculty demonstrated generosity with their time and offered advice and guidance that would support Margaret throughout the program.

Lisa Harmon, Margaret's instructor in the professional practices class, became Margaret's professional supervisor during her first two years in private practice. The small cohort model facilitated friendships with future colleagues that she still draws upon today in her private practice.

In October 2019 after completing her Mental Health Counseling internship, Margaret opened her private practice, Watershed Counseling Services, LLC, not expecting immediate success. So, in addition to running her private practice, she accepted a position at a local wine shop, which meant she had two master's degrees and a minimum wage job, but it helped pay the bills until business picked up. Just as her job at the wine shop was ending, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

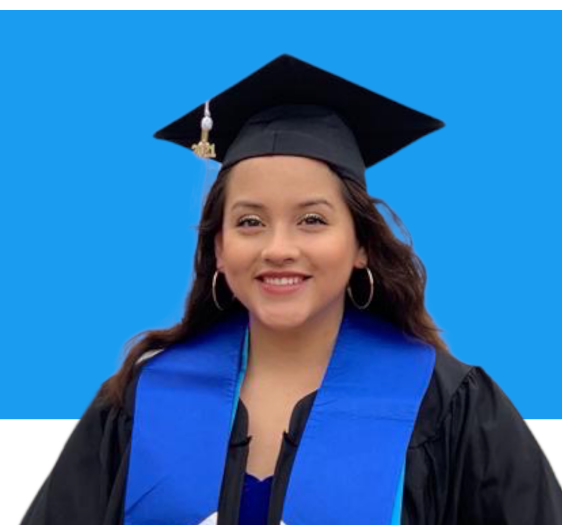
While the pandemic altered how mental healthcare services would be delivered, it also intensified what many believe to be a mental health crisis. Western's graduate program prepared Margaret to creatively adapt to the demands and the changes brought by the pandemic. In 2021, with a full schedule of clients, Margaret was invited to join Associates in Mental Health, a group of independent mental health practitioners and professionals, and to continue to serve individuals and families in Whatcom County.

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

The Department of Psychology offers scholarships to selected undergraduate and graduate students each academic year. The 2021 scholarship award recipients share their personal experiences and stories, as well as how their scholarships influenced their academic and professional careers:

LINDA PACHECO

MERLE PRIM SCHOLARSHIP & BOWMAN LEADERSHIP STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP



"My name is Linda Pacheco. I am currently in my last quarter here at Western Washington University. I am a first-generation Latinx immigrant from Peru. I came to the U.S. with my parents when I was five years old. Education has always been a priority in my family and my parents have always pushed me to do my best.

In elementary school, they used to help me with my homework with a textbook in one hand and a dictionary in the other. Through them, I learned ambition and determination. Their greatest wish was for me to have the opportunity they did not, to pursue higher education.

They are my biggest role models. I am also an older sister; my younger brother, James, is currently 13 and I hope that seeing me pursuing higher education will help him see that it is possible.

Western has provided me with so many wonderful opportunities such as becoming Secretary for Psi Chi and the Latinx Student Union, joining a research lab with Dr. Alex Czopp on the Psychology of Prejudice, and receiving scholarships such as the Merle Prim Scholarship and Bowman Leadership Studies Scholarship.

Over the summer I also received the Psi Chi Undergraduate Scholarship. These scholarships have been critical in continuing my education as I come from a low-income family. I have also been able to get an internship with the Opportunity Council and volunteer for the North Sound Youth and Family Coalition. All of these experiences further helped me find my passion for helping others.

After graduation I will be moving back home to Tacoma and hope to find a job in which I can give back to my community and gain social service experience. I also hope to apply to graduate programs in social work in the future. With graduation getting closer and closer, I have begun to reflect on my time here at Western. I am very grateful for having the privilege of pursuing higher education and for everyone who has helped me along the way.

Dr. Alex Czopp has been an incredible advisor whose guidance has been critical. Additionally, professors such as Dr. Jeff King, Dr. David Sattler, Dr. Alex Czopp, and the Compass2Campus course provided me with wonderful experiences and knowledge that further helped me realize what I am most passionate about. As a first-generation student of color, I've dealt a lot with imposter syndrome, and admission advisor Tina Castillo helped me realize that I do belong and deserve to be here at Western. My parents, Hector and Elizabeth Pacheco, and my brother James Pacheco have been my biggest supporters, always cheering me on and motivating me to do better. To everyone who has helped me get to this point, I want to say thank you." – Linda Pacheco

KIT TURNER

ETHAN REMMEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP CENTER FOR CROSS CULTURAL RESEARCH (CCCR) SCHOLARSHIP

"This past spring, I was honored by being a recipient of a scholarship through the Ethan Remmel Memorial Scholarship and CCCR. Since then, I have continued to pursue my interest in psychological research. I have been a part of two research projects that have been submitted to journals for publication, one which has been granted in-principle acceptance, and the other which is still under review. A separate project has been accepted as a poster presentation to the 2022 SPSP conference, and I look forward to presenting there in February. Nearest to my heart, however, is the research that I have really made my own as my master's thesis project.

I have been continuing with research concerning LGBTQ+ identity development, and especially in the ways that LGBTQ+ individuals develop a sense of belonging as a member of the LGBTQ+ community through the intergenerational transmission of history and knowledge within the community.

I am now also collaborating on a second project, besides my thesis, related to this topic. I am grateful for the influence that the CCCR and the psychology department faculty have had on me throughout this process, by modeling the importance of research centered in culture and diversity, and by supporting my goals both through ongoing encouragement and through scholarships. I'm proud to be a member of the CCCR and a graduate student in the psychology department here at Western. Through my work, I hope to continue to make both proud to have me in return." – Kit Turner

EMMA JEROME

ADAMS-WOODRING SCHOLARSHIP BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP



"I am a third-year undergraduate student majoring in Behavioral Neuroscience (BNS), and I am a recipient of the Adams-Woodring Scholarship and the Behavioral Neuroscience Program Scholarship. These generous contributions to my education have made a big impact this year as I try to take full advantage of the opportunities the community and the BNS program provides.

I am especially grateful for the support this year as in-person engagements return to the schedule. As the Off-Campus Outreach Coordinator for the Neuroscience Research Driven Students Club, being able to arrange visits with local elementary school students to teach them about the brain with hands-on activities has been especially rewarding.

I have also been among a cohort of students taking the first offerings of two newly developed BNS courses, which have been very applicable to the work I hope to do in my career. It's exciting to see the hard work of the program faculty and staff pay off with these classes that teach statistics, experimental methods, and scientific writing in a more brain-centered way than was previously offered at Western.

As I dive deeper into the content of the BNS major, a particular quote from Hans Hofmann has been circulating in my mind: 'Nothing in neuroscience makes sense except in light of behavior.' I would say that my interests lie within molecular genetics, but without an examination of behavior, the discoveries within this discipline are less significant. The BNS labs at Western are great at giving students tangible experience with behavior analysis using a range of animal models.

My work with a CRISPR-mediated approach to Huntington's disease gene therapy in Dr. Jeff Carroll's lab has illustrated this to me. I am looking forward to seeing the results of this therapy in mice and participating in the characterization of a new mouse strain modeling the rare neurodegenerative disease DRPLA. These experiences will prepare me for a career in research studying such conditions and how treatments for them affect behavioral symptoms." – Emma Jerome

DEPARTMENT NEWS

WELCOME MARÍSA

FACULTY SUPPORT/RECEPTION COORDINATOR



Marisa Fernandez joined the Department of Psychology in Fall 2021. She completed her Master's of Science in Kinesiology (Sport and Exercise Psychology) at Western Washington University in Spring 2021 and was eager to continue working on Western's campus and living in beautiful Bellingham, WA.

In addition to Marisa's connection with the university, she is also a member of a local dance collective, Bellingham Repertory Dance, and plays a role in other local community organizations. As a part of Marisa's position in the Department of Psychology, she supports faculty and students in a variety of ways, oversees the Psychology Department main office, and helps with department event coordination, marketing, and social media.

Marisa is a member of the department's Communications Committee and Outreach Committee, and recently joined the Center for Cross-Cultural Research. She looks forward to learning from her colleagues, participating in research, and playing a role in the overall advancement of the department.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

We present these values in the active voice, to give clarity and transparency to what we are working towards as a department. In the Department of Psychology, we acknowledge the historical and systemic inequities that exist within our department, the field, academia, and society at large. We strive to collaboratively construct an inviting, respectful, safe, and inclusive learning community for students, faculty, and staff. We seek to develop skills to disrupt past and current injustices through our teaching, research, service, and interpersonal interactions. We encourage faculty, staff, and students to engage in innovative, ethical, anti-racist scholarship and education towards the mission of creating a more socially just world.

DR. JEFF GRIMM, NEW DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

As of Fall 2021, Dr. Jeff Grimm is the new director of the Behavioral Neuroscience Program. Dr. Grimm has established a laboratory at Western to investigate the neurobiology of drug relapse. With the collaboration of student laboratory assistants, he conducts experiments to identify brain areas involved in relapse.

COUNSELING TRAINING CLINIC



Second year Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate students in front of the Counseling Training Clinic

Covid has led to significant changes for the counseling graduate students working in the Counseling Training Clinic over the past year and a half. Since spring 2020 when COVID-19 led to the closure of the university and in person functions, the clinic has been working closely with the Western HIPAA compliance office and following American Counseling Association ethical guidelines to offer sound, secure practices and procedures for providing telehealth and video counseling services to community clients. This year, the clinic will be open again January through June 2022 and will be providing both in person services to all ages and video counseling services to adults and teens in the community. New students this year are being trained thoroughly by counseling faculty for both in person and telehealth/video procedures in preparation for their clinic work.

Counselors are trained to deal with a wide range of issues such as: depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, vocational choices, grief, communication problems, parent-child conflict, and childhood issues. The Counseling Training Clinic provides over 500 hours of direct counseling services annually to people in the Bellingham community.

PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This year, Dr. Katie Olvera and Dr. Matthew Seifert were promoted to Senior Instructors in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Brianna Delker, Dr. Annie Riggs, and Dr. Aaron Smith were promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations to All!

CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH: NEW EDITED BOOK

Several Western faculty and students (Dr. Antonya Gonzalez, Dr. Christie Scollon, Dr. Brianna Delker, Dr. Kate McLean, Dr. Barbara Lehman, Dr. Meg Warren, Adrian Villicana, Zach Willett, Kendall Lawley, and Kevin Delucio) contributed to an edited book published in the summer. The book showcases the Center for Cross-Cultural Research Speaker Series, which over the past several years hosted numerous scholars to present their research and provide methodology workshops for students and faculty. Many of those speakers are included in this volume. The book describes a broad array of culturally sensitive research methods in psychology, addressing diverse issues such as implicit bias, identity development, trauma, and racism.

Each chapter provides instructive value for those who want to effectively employ these methods, as well as deep reflection on the meaning of various methods for understanding complex psychological phenomena. The methods discussed include various interview methodologies, digital tools, use of media representations, exposure to positive exemplars, survey and experience sampling, and participatory action research. These topics and methods are arranged across three sections: methods that describe culture and cultural phenomena, methodologies designed to facilitate awareness of structural bias and inequity, and a section on broad, overarching issues, such as the colonial harm inflicted by scientific research, diversity in open science, and intersectionality.

FACULTY NEWS

DR. DAVID SATTLER'S LAB ADDRESSES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Dr. David Sattler (with Western student Kylie Otton and colleague Dr. James Johnson) published an article examining assaults on Asians during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The researchers found that economic hardship experienced by participants in the United States and India predicted diminished support to compensate victims or punish the assailant. Dr. Sattler and colleagues Boldsuren Bishkhorloo (National University of Mongolia, NUM), and Dr. Jim Graham published an article examining how climate change is impacting nomadic herders in Mongolia. With undergraduate students from the NUM, Dr. Sattler and Boldsuren Bishkhorloo traveled in regions that are among the most remote in the world to locate nomadic herders, using 4x4 vehicles to traverse and camp on the steppes and plains, and carrying food, water, and supplies to be self-sufficient for nearly three weeks.

Dr. Sattler also published an article examining school climate in Mongolia, with Western graduate student Brett Muskavage, Dr. Diana Gruman, and Oyundelger Enkhtur and Boldsuren Bishkhorloo (NUM). Dr. Sattler published an invited article detailing the International Tsunami Museum he established in Thailand in the wake of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. The article describes the action teaching project he developed to provide students with opportunities to contribute to creating exhibits for the museum. Katie Ginther and Kylie Otton (Western undergraduate students), Brooklyn Smith (Western graduate student), Dr. Sattler, and Dr. James Johnson conducted a national study examining police violence towards Black women.

Dr. Sattler presented an invited talk on resilience at the Unity Care NW annual employee meeting, with Dr. Sislena Ledbetter (Vice President for Counseling, Health and Wellness at Western) and Walter Philips (CEO, San Diego Youth Services). The Supreme Court of Washington State appointed Dr. Sattler to the Washington State Bar Association Practice of Law Board. Dr. Sattler serves as the international board member of Ohai Tonga, a non-governmental organization in the Kingdom of Tonga addressing climate change in the Pacific.



Dr. Sattler and Rhys Logan (WWU) with Boldsuren Bishkhorloo and students at the National University in Mongolia.

DR. AARON SMITH AND THE WARRIOR WELLNESS LAB

The Warrior-Wellness Lab – a Veteran’s mental health research lab in the psychology department at Western – is involved in a number of service projects. While they have focused their efforts the last four years primarily on conducting research in support of Veterans’ mental health (they currently have two studies in-progress examining the role of meaning-making in the aftermaths of traumas), they have made a concerted effort to pivot this year to also include community service with Veterans and their families.

The lab has been working with an exceptional community non-profit that teaches Veterans (most of whom are survivors of trauma) how to sustainably farm as a means of helping them transition out of the military and into civilian life – an organization called Growing Veterans.

They have farms supporting Veterans in both Lynden and on Whidbey Island and one of the lab's student research assistants, Spencer Hoffner, has been volunteering for Growing Veterans for the last couple of years. She has been integral in the partnership with Growing Veterans, and the lab looks forward to collaborating on a number of community and research-related projects now and into the future. Spencer was also recently accepted to attend Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) after a grueling battery of physical and mental assessments – bootcamp for Marine Corps officers – and she will complete that portion of her training at the end of this coming summer (2022).

The lab is also partnering with the Marine Corps Reserve to assist them in their toys-4-tots campaign (gathering toys for children in need – a charity run by the Marines for almost a century). While Dr. Aaron Smith served in the Marines, one of his most meaningful roles was helping to organize his special forces unit's toy-collection efforts. As such, he and his research assistants are gathering donation boxes from the local toys-4-tots Marine Corps representatives to place around the university (and in locations across both Whatcom and Skagit counties). Community members will contribute toys to the boxes that will later be collected and given to the US Marine Corps Reserves to distribute to children and families in need during the holiday season.

DR. JENNIFER DEVENPORT APPOINTED TO WSBA BOARD

Dr. Jennifer Devenport, an Associate Professor in Psychology and Law at Western Washington University, was appointed to a 3-year term on the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Disciplinary Board. Members are appointed by the WSBA Board of Governors and the Washington Supreme Court. The Disciplinary Board is made up of 14 members, reports to the Washington State Supreme Court, and is charged with reviewing grievances involving lawyer conduct and decisions involving disciplinary action.

DR. ANNA CIAO RECEIVES DOVE GRANT

Students from Western's Eating and Body Image research team have been working with Toronto non-profit CanvasArts Action Programs to develop a body image program for LGBTQ+ middle schoolers. Part of the Dove Self-Esteem Project, the Proud to Be Me curriculum was adapted by psychology department graduates Summer Pascual and Douglas Van Druff, with support from Dr. Anna Ciao, director of the Eating and Body Image research team, and Dr. Tiffany Brown from the University of California San Diego. Proud to Be Me asks middle school students to identify and critique mainstream appearance ideals and practice with different ways to cultivate body compassion and advocate for body diversity.

DR. JEFF KING FOCUSES ON "PRINCIPLES OF HEALING"

Dr. Jeff King was granted two quarters of professional leave. During his leave, he completed 15 out of 21 chapters on a book titled "Principles of Healing." Dr. King spent time talking to authors who have written books that are similar to his, in order to discover how one goes about finding a publisher and how to market a book. He has also had folks provide feedback on what he has currently written.

Besides the book writing, Dr. King has been a consultant to the “Gathering of NW Elders, Knowledge Holders, and Culture Keepers (NPAIHB),” based in Portland, OR where they are training Behavioral Health Aides for counseling in small tribal areas in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. These are places where they have been unable to get professional help in behavioral health. The program organizers are setting up a system of remote supervision for these students with doctoral level Native American counselors. This project is still ongoing.

Even though Dr. King was not active as faculty while on leave, he was able to be a participant in the WWU Racial Diversity Discussion Workshops. Finally, he was able to give a Zoom presentation to the WWU Nursing students on Health Care and North American Indigenous People in October 2020.

CLUB NEWS

PSYCH CLUB

After a long hiatus, Western’s Psychology (PSYCH) Club is back up and running! The club members are so excited to be meeting again and allowing students to have opportunities to meet other students with similar interests, volunteer with local organizations, and overall, get involved with the department and community. Since the club has been back, the members have created several volunteer opportunities for the students involved.

For example, with the recent flooding in Whatcom County and the northwest region of Washington, club members have been involved with the clean-up and the aftermath of these events in Everson and Nooksack areas. The club members are also looking forward to other opportunities and a donation drive coming in the new year. During the winter quarter, PSYCH Club will meet every Wednesday via zoom at 6 pm, and they hope to see you there! Connect with the PSYCH Club on Instagram @psychclub.wwu

PSYSOC CLUB

PSYSOC is a new club on campus that works to connect students of color in psychology and behavioral neuroscience. At PSYSOC’s first club meeting, members introduced themselves and established future topics for meetings (e.g., study skills from a neuroscientist’s perspective). Next quarter the club members plan to continue implementing social hangouts, faculty talks, and other useful skills. Connect with the PSYSOC club on Instagram @psysocwwu

NERDS CLUB

The NeRDS club is a group of students who share a passion for neuroscience. This year the club hosted multiple guest speakers, with Dr. Kameron Harris speaking to the club about the power of computational neuroscience, and Dr. Josh Kaplan leading a Curriculum Vitae writing workshop. The club also hosted a watch party for the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) mini-symposium and student SfN presentations.

Additionally, the NeRDS Club recently had their first in-person off-campus outreach since the beginning of the pandemic – in which a group of club members led a neuron hand drawing activity with a class of 3rd graders at Happy Valley Elementary School. Connect with the NeRDS club on Instagram @wwunerds

PSI CHI: INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Western's chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society of Psychology, is fairly new and has only been up and running for a couple of years. This year, Psi Chi will be collaborating on a research project for the Western Psychological Association Conference in 2022. Psi Chi will be designing, conducting, and presenting a group project.

Psi Chi also hosts a variety of professional development meetings, including advice for graduate school applications and faculty guest lectures. Finally, Psi Chi will be hosting social events for students to get to know one another. You do not have to be a member to join in on Psi Chi meetings. Connect with Psi Chi on Instagram @wwupsichi

A L U M N I N E W S

SAHILPREET KAUR

Western alum Sahilpreet Kaur has been accepted to Washington State University's Doctor of Pharmacy Program and has earned a scholarship to attend! She graduated from Western in Spring 2021 with a degree in Psychology and a Minor in Chemistry.

KAREN SPRINGER

Western alum Karen Springer published her thesis in the top psychology of men/masculinity journal, in collaboration with former Western professor Dr. Rob Bedi. Drs. Aaron Smith and Jeff King were on Karen's thesis committee. It is a huge accomplishment for Karen to publish her thesis in such a highly competitive APA journal. We expect that Karen's research will get a high degree of exposure and impact the field in some meaningful way!

MADDY JALBERT



Western alum Dr. Maddy Jalbert (who previously worked in the Applied Cognition Research Lab with Dr. Ira Hyman) recently took a postdoctoral scholar position at the University of Washington. Dr. Jalbert studies how context and subjective experiences influence memory, judgment, and decision-making.

Her work primarily focuses on factors that impact judgments of truth and risk, as well as how these judgments play out in naturalistic contexts. The goal of this work is to shed light on effective strategies for preventing and correcting the spread of misinformation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER QUARTER 2022

1

February 14, 4pm-5pm: Center for Cross-Cultural Research Speaker
HYOUN K. KIM, YONSEI UNIVERSITY, SEOUL, KOREA

SPRING QUARTER 2022

2

May 16, 4-5pm: Center for Cross-Cultural Research Speaker
JOYCE P. YANG, UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

3

May 26
WWU GIVE DAY

4

June 3
PSYCHFEST: To celebrate and showcase undergraduate and
graduate scholarship of psychology students

STAY IN TOUCH!

We are always interested in the paths that your lives have taken after you graduated from Western and we believe that your classmates will also be interested.

We encourage you to send news items at any time to Dr. Sampaio at sampaic@wwu.edu or to Marisa Fernandez at psychology@wwu.edu

Follow us on Facebook @WWUPsychology and Instagram @wwupsychology

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



Western Washington University (WWU), in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status or genetic information in its programs or activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs. Inquiries may be directed to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, Title IX and ADA Coordinator, Western Washington University, Old Main 345, MS 9021, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225; 360-650-3307 (voice) or 711 (Washington Relay); crtc@wwu.edu.

WWU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. To request an accommodation for events listed in this newsletter, please contact the Department of Psychology at psychology@wwu.edu. To request this document in an alternate format, please contact Marisa Fernandez in the Department of Psychology: email psychology@wwu.edu or call (360)-650-3515.